DARK HORSE COMICS

19 may 93

INSIDER™

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS™

THREE ALL-NEW SERIES BEGIN

- *Accident Man*
- *Caravan Kidd Part 2*
- *The Dirty Pair: Sim Hell*

STAR WARS

Tales of the Jedi strip continues with Part 3!

READERS TELL ALL IN THE HORSE'S MOUTH

SNEAK PREVIEW

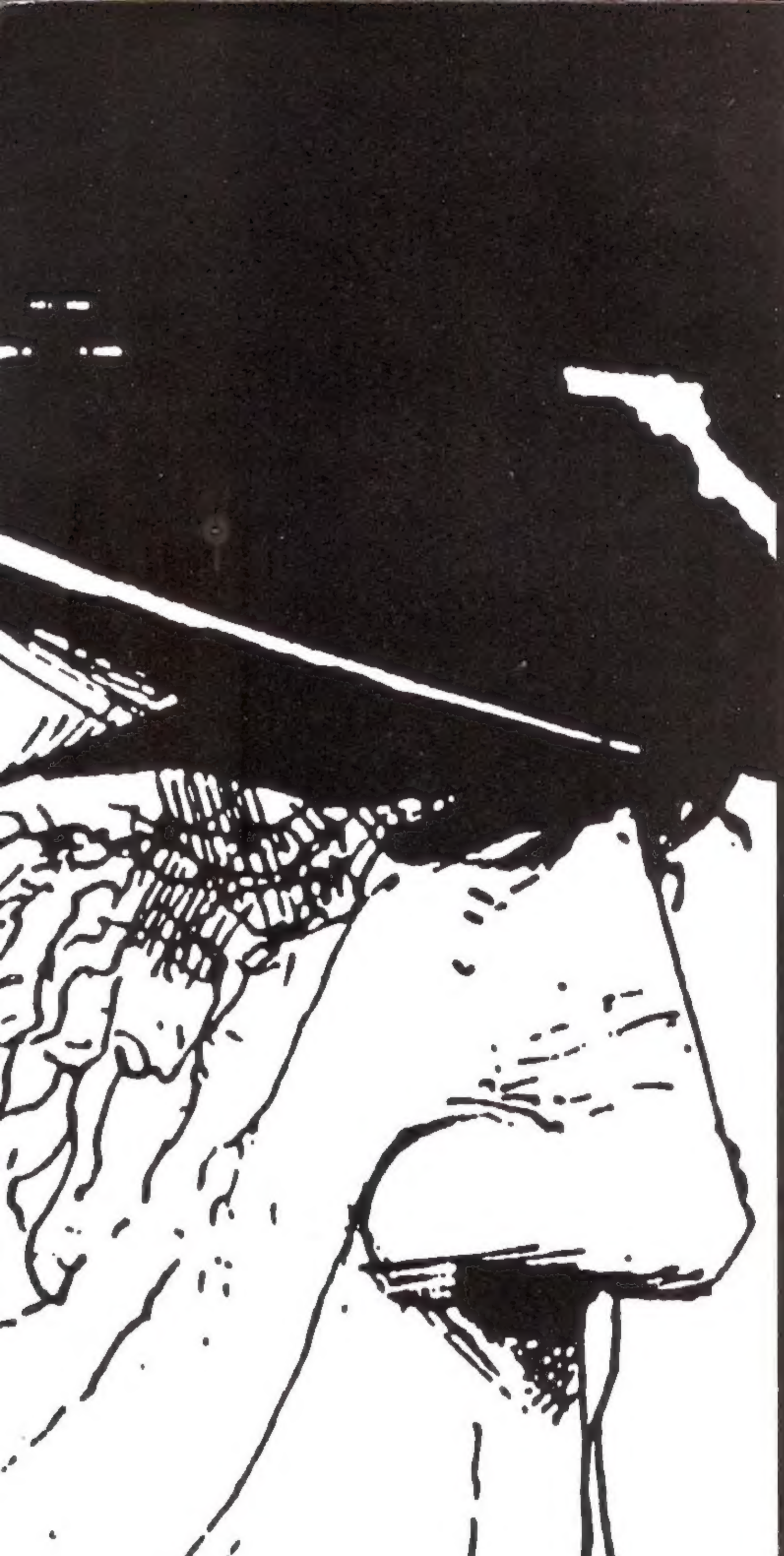
- *Arcadia — Week 1: X*

Dark Horse Comics' new superhero series launch premieres in June!

...AND MORE!

DARK HORSE COMICS

Predator: Cold War trade paperback collection cover art by Ray Lago



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FRONT COVER ART BY RAY LAGO FROM *PREDATOR: COLD WAR* TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION

INSIDE FRONT COVER ART BY EDDIE CAMPBELL FROM *1,001 NIGHTS OF BACCHUS*

INSIDE BACK COVER ART BY JERRY ORDWAY FROM *GOLDEN CITY — WEEK 1: REBEL*

EDITOR: KRIS YOUNG
PROOFREADER: SUZANNE TAYLOR
DESIGN & PRODUCTION: EGON SELBY, EVELYN HARRIS

ALIENS™

SACRIFICE

ALIENS: SACRIFICE

$4.95 U.S., $6.20 Canada.
48 painted color pages, squarebound, painted cover.

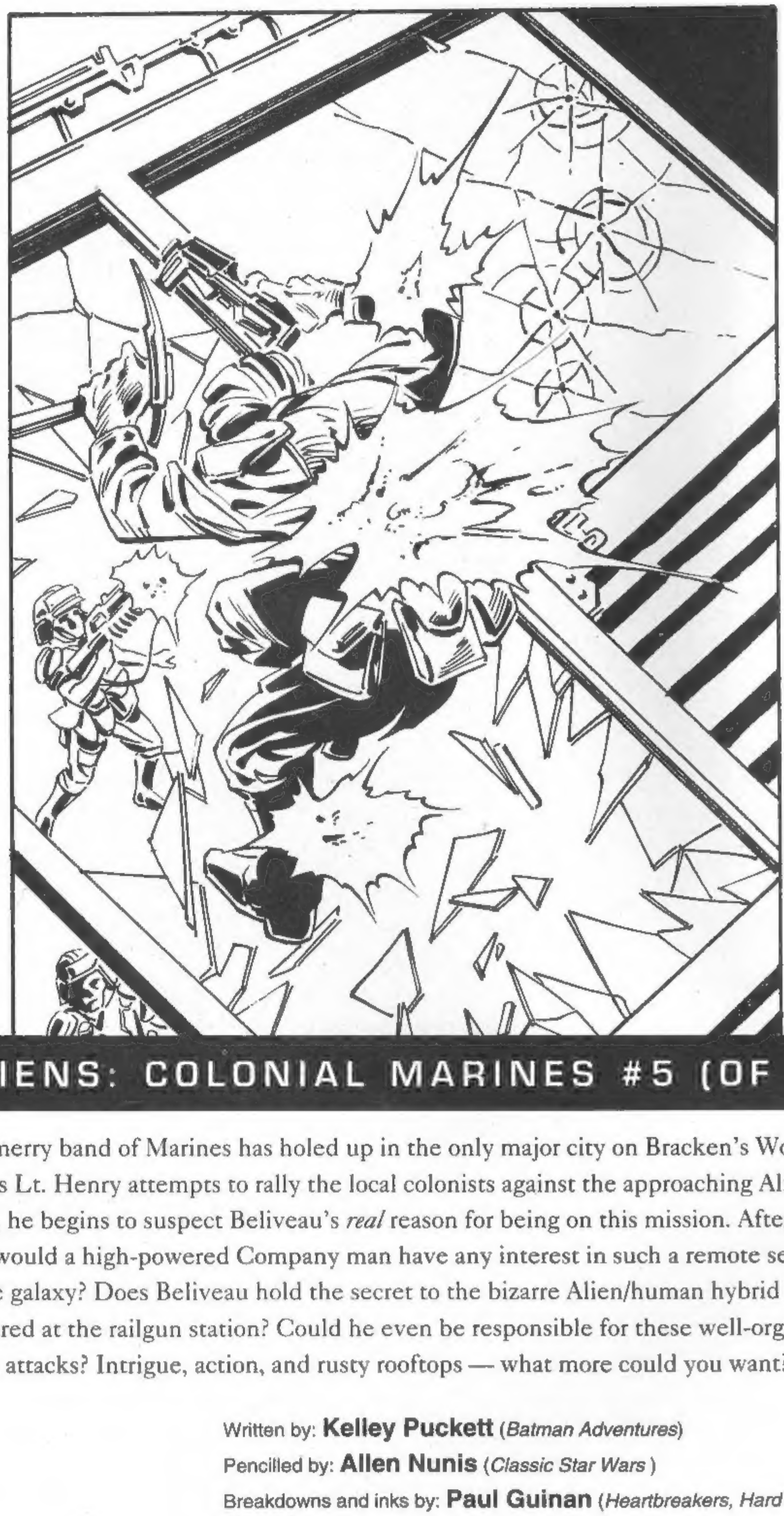
Shipping May 25, 1993.

Collecting the story originally serialized in Dark Horse U.K.'s *Aliens* title, *Aliens: Sacrifice* is a one-shot presenting perhaps the most emotionally powerful *Aliens* tale you will ever read. Stranded on an isolated planet, Ann McKay takes shelter in a remote village that is being terrorized by an Alien. She soon discovers that its inhabitants are hiding a horrifying secret from her. But to discover the truth she has to face her own innermost demons, and try to save the souls of the villagers at the same time.

Peter Milligan's exciting and complex script gets to the heart of the *Aliens* mythology, and Paul Johnson's fully painted artwork perfectly captures the mood and mystery of the films.

Written by: **Peter Milligan** (*Batman, Shade the Changing Man*)
Painted art by: **Paul Johnson** (*Books of Magic, Interface*)
Painted cover by: **Paul Johnson**

COLONIAL ALIENS™ MARINES



ALIENS: COLONIAL MARINES #5 (OF 12)

$2.50 U.S.,
$3.15 Canada.
32 color pages,
painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping
May 4, 1993.

Our merry band of Marines has holed up in the only major city on Bracken's World, and as Lt. Henry attempts to rally the local colonists against the approaching Alien army, he begins to suspect Beliveau's *real* reason for being on this mission. After all, why would a high-powered Company man have any interest in such a remote section of the galaxy? Does Beliveau hold the secret to the bizarre Alien/human hybrid they captured at the railgun station? Could he even be responsible for these well-organized Alien attacks? Intrigue, action, and rusty rooftops — what more could you want?

Written by: **Kelley Puckett** (*Batman Adventures*)
Pencilled by: **Allen Nunis** (*Classic Star Wars*)
Breakdowns and inks by: **Paul Guinan** (*Heartbreakers, Hard Looks*)
Painted cover by: **Joe Phillips**

ALIENS™
ROGUE

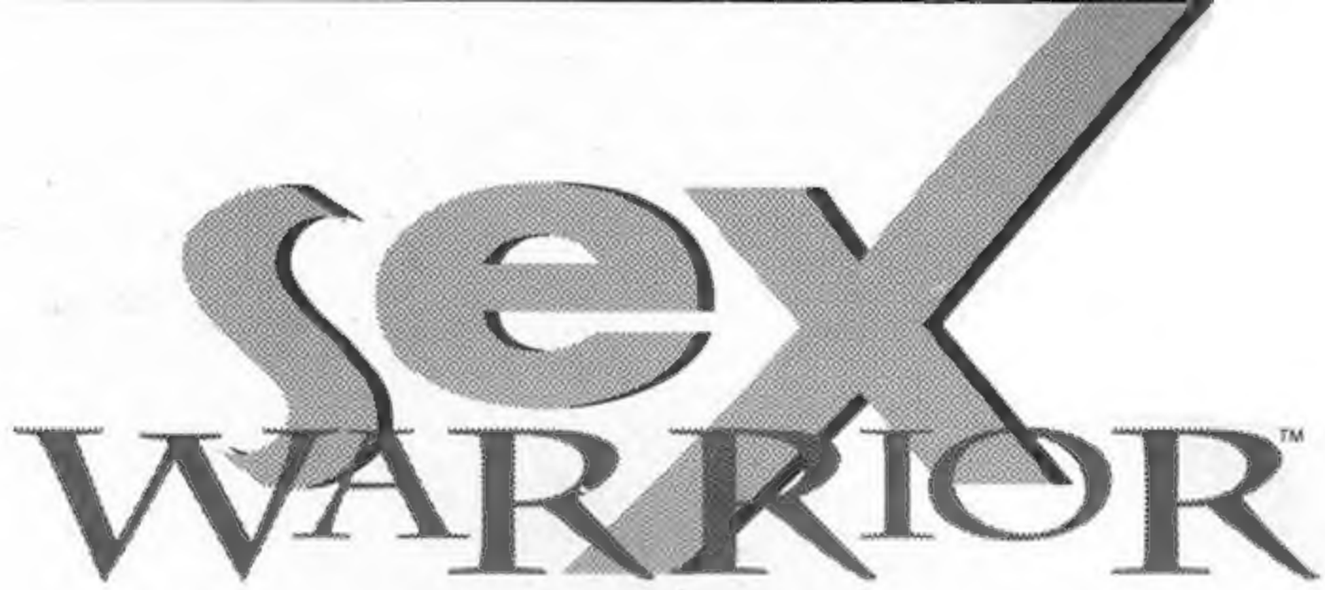
ALIENS: ROGUE #2 (OF 4)

$2.50 U.S.,
$3.15 Canada.
32 color pages,
painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping
May 25, 1993.

Things are getting curiouser and curiouser on Charon base; the more Kray and Palmer find out about Dr. Kleist's research, the less they like it. Most of the Marines stationed there have been "executed" despite their commanding officer's protests, and it looks like the few remaining grunts are headed for a nasty new kind of bug-hunt. Meanwhile, since Kleist's attempts to breed a tame Alien Queen have all failed miserably, he's trying a new approach — one that involves using Kray's DNA, with or without his consent!

Written by: **Ian Edginton** (*The Terminator: The Enemy Within*)
Illustrated by: **Will Simpson** (*Hellblazer*)
Painted cover by: **Will Simpson**



Advisory:
Suggested for mature readers. Contains sexual situations and nudity.

$2.50 U.S.,
$3.15 Canada.
32 color pages,
painted cover.

Shipping May 18, 1993.

SEX WARRIOR #2 (OF 2)

The Steroids unleash their most powerful weapon in an attempt to destroy the Rebels, but Dakini Smith instructs the young humans in the ways of Tantrology so they can draw on their innermost potential to defeat the Wrinklies. However, just as victory seems within reach, Dakini herself must make the ultimate sacrifice.

Created and written by: **Pat Mills** (*Marshal Law*)
and **Tony Skinner**
Pencilled by: **Mike McKone**
Inked and colored by: **John Erasmus**
Painted cover by: **Robert Mentor** (*Aliens: Colonial Marines*)

REDBLADE™

REDBLADE #2 (OF 3)

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers.

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada. 32 color pages, double-gatefold cover.

Monthly. Shipping May 18, 1993.

Spirit-warriors Redblade and Vena want a toe-to-toe battle with their enemy, the demon Engetsu. What they *get* is a knock-down drag-out with the mighty Tull, half of whose dual-spirit identity Engetsu has enslaved! Non-stop superhero action from beginning to end.

Written, pencilled, and inked by: **Vince Giarrano**
(*The Terminator: The Enemy Within*)

Double-gatefold cover by: **Vince Giarrano**

PROPELLER MAN™

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers.

PROPELLERMAN #3 (OF 8)

$2.95 U.S., $3.70 Canada.
32 painted color pages, saddle-stitched deluxe format, painted cover.

Bimonthly. Shipping May 11, 1993.

Human brains attached to computers may fill in the missing pieces of Propellerman's memory — if he lives long enough to discover their secrets. Before he can understand who he is, Propellerman must face the Manipulator! *Propellerman* is beautifully written and painted by acclaimed creator Matthias Schultheiss (*Bell's Theorem*).

Written and illustrated by: **Matthias Schultheiss**
Painted cover by: **Matthias Schultheiss**

IAN FLEMING'S JAMES BOND 007™

JAMES BOND 007: A SILENT ARMAGEDDON #2 (OF 4)

$2.95 U.S., $3.70 Canada.
32 painted color pages, saddle-stitched deluxe format, painted cover.

Bimonthly. Shipping May 4, 1993.

Omega, the most powerful computer in the world, is the prize coveted by agents of CERBERUS — a prize they will kill to possess. With Omega under CERBERUS' control, they will have access and control of a worldwide communications system. What will Bond do to prevent this silent coup, especially when Omega seems to be evolving a consciousness of its own?

Written by: **Simon Jowett**
Painted illustrations by: **John M. Burns**
Painted cover by: **John M. Burns**

ACCIDENT MAN™

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers. Contains sexual situations and harsh language.

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada.
32 B&W pages, color cover.

Monthly. Shipping May 11, 1993.

ACCIDENT MAN #1 (OF 3)

Got a problem that needs fixing? Permanent fixing? Call Mike Fallon, a.k.a. Accident Man. He can arrange a discreet, unsuspicious and entirely unavoidable accident for the victim of your choice — if you can afford his fee, of course.

In this issue, Fallon meets the beautiful Mirror Morgan, and gets himself embroiled in an intrigue that involves sex, shopping, and several suspicious fatalities. This is the story we just had to call "Sex 'n' Death."

Created and written by: **Pat Mills** (*Marshal Law*)
and **Tony Skinner**
Illustrated by: **Duke Mighten**
Color cover by: **Howard Chaykin** (*American Flagg, Blackhawk*)

THE BLUE LILY™

COME AND VISIT AGAIN SOON. IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE HAVING YOU OVER...
...A BARREL.
OH, WELL... AT LEAST I WAS BEING ESCORTED OUT BY TWO NICE, WELL-PROPORTIONED HEAPS INSTEAD OF ONE BIG, UGLY SHAPELESS ONE.
THE BLUE LILY #3 (OF 4)

Advisory:
Suggested for mature readers. Contains some nudity.

$3.95 U.S., $4.95 Canada.
48 color pages (no ads!), saddle-stitched deluxe format, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping May 25, 1993.

In the penultimate chapter of this science-fiction detective story, our metallic hero Rusty Spade comes faceplate-to-faceplate with the most dangerous digits around: the Robot Liberation Front! If not for the fact that he and the RLF are after the same thing, Rusty would *really* be in trouble. What're they after, you ask? Nothing less than the secret of their own creation — the key to digital Eden! The trouble is, this mythical key is somehow tied to what could be the biggest government scandal in human history... and for some reason, the more Rusty finds out, the more people keep trying to dismantle him. Only time (and issue #4) will tell whether or not he'll be able to keep his head!

Written and illustrated by: **Angus McKie** (*Heavy Metal*)
Painted cover by: **Angus McKie**

CLASSIC STAR WARS

HAN...! THOSE NOISES FROM THE FOREST... SOUNDS LIKE A FIGHT!
AND LISTEN TO THOSE GROWLS, LUKE! CHEWIE'S INVOLVED!
MASTER LUKE! CAPTAIN SOLO! CHEWBACCA! THANK THE MAKER YOU'VE COME! SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS LOOSE IN THE MAIN HANGAR!

CLASSIC STAR WARS #9

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada.
32 color pages, color cover.

Monthly. Shipping May 4, 1993.

Leia, Luke, Han, and Chewie finally make it back to Rebel headquarters in the Yavin system only to find it under attack by Imperial forces! With the *Millennium Falcon*'s help, the Rebels emerge victorious. But even as they celebrate, the battle sparks some unexpected results — in the form of an ancient threat that lurks within the very heart of Yavin's moon!

Classic Star Wars is based on early-eighties newspaper strips that we've carefully reformatted into comic-book stories. Dark Horse is presenting this material completely in color for the first time ever, and we've revised the interior art to fit comic-book dimensions with the assistance of original strip artist Al Williamson!

Written by: **Archie Goodwin**
Illustrated by: **Al Williamson** with **Allen Nunis**
Colored by: **Steve Buccellato** (*The Terminator: The Enemy Within*)
Color cover by: **Al Williamson**

Concrete®

CONCRETE: ECLECTICA #2 (OF 2)

$2.95 U.S.,
$3.70 Canada.
32 color pages
(no ads!),
painted cover.

This issue features a whimsical story, "I Strive for Realism," in which Concrete meets the creator of his universe, and is temporarily transformed back into plain, human Ronald Lithgow. Also in this issue, a new "Sky of Heads" story, more "100 Horrors," and a few more of Paul Chadwick's wonderful watercolor paintings.

Shipping May 4, 1993.

Created, written, and illustrated by: **Paul Chadwick**
Painted cover by: **Paul Chadwick**

THE 1,001 NIGHTS OF BACCHUS™

$3.95 U.S., $4.95 Canada.
48 B&W pages, painted collage cover.

Shipping May 4, 1993.

The 1,001 Nights of Bacchus. Eerie, funny, perplexing, astounding! Forty-eight pages of bedtime stories for Bacchus in which we meet The Man Who Couldn't Say Boo, The Angel Seamus, Gilgamesh the Scottish Soccer Hooligan, and a bunch of dead people chewing the fat under the ground.

Written and illustrated by: **Eddie Campbell**
Painted collage cover by: **Eddie Campbell**

Andrew Vachss

HARD LOOKS™

Number Eight

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers.

$2.95 U.S., $3.70 Canada.
32 B&W pages, color cover.

Bimonthly. Shipping May 18, 1993.

Featured in this issue of *Hard Looks* are two intense adaptations of Andrew Vachss short stories: "Born Bad," adapted by Charles deLint with art by Dave D'Antiquis and "Exit," adapted by Jerry Prosser with photographic manipulations by Harry O. Morris. This issue also features "Head Case," a new short story by Andrew Vachss.

Stories adapted by: **Charles deLint** and **Jerry Prosser**
New short story by: **Andrew Vachss**
Illustrated by: **Dave D'Antiquis** and **Harry O. Morris**
Color cover by: **Harry O. Morris**

DARK HORSE COMICS™

"Predator: The Pride at Nghasa," Part 1
Written by: **Chuck Dixon**
Pencilled and inked by: **Enrique Alcatena**

"Who is X?" Part 3
Written by: **Jerry Prosser**
Pencilled by: **N. Steven Harris**
Inked by: **Dan Davis**

"James Bond: Light of My Death," Part 3
Written by: **Das Petrou**
Pencilled and inked by: **John Watkiss**

"Godzilla: Blast from the Past," Part 1
Written by: **Randy Stradley**
Pencilled by: **Bobby Rubio**
Inked by: **Brian Garvey**

Color cover by: **John Watkiss**

DARK HORSE COMICS #10

$2.50 U.S.,
$3.15 Canada.
32 color pages,
color cover.

Monthly. Shipping
May 25, 1993.

Starting this month are two exciting new features in *Dark Horse Comics*. For all of you Godzilla fans out there, we've got a new two-part tale of the King of the Monsters that sets the stage for an infestation of monsters in Dark Horse's future. We've also got the beginning of a beautifully rendered three-part African story of that monomaniacal hunter of the Galaxy, Predator. As if that weren't enough, we're also wrapping up the three-part introductory story of "Who is X?" as well as bringing you Part 3 of "James Bond: Light of My Death." That's Bond. James Bond... in a very debonair color cover drawn by John Watkiss.

CHEVAL noir™

"Sylvia"
Written and illustrated by: **Nicole Hollander**

"Suburban Nightmares: Secrets," Part 1 of 5
Created by: **Michael Cherkas**, **Larry Hancock**, and **John van Bruggen**
Script by: **Larry Hancock**
Pencilled and inked by: **Michael Cherkas**
Inked by: **John van Bruggen**

"The Crime Channel"
Written and illustrated by: **Rick Geary**

"Demon," Part 3 of 5
Written and illustrated by: **Masashi Tanaka**

"Soup Line"
Written and illustrated by: **Cossu & Jamsin**

Painted cover by: **Michael Cherkas**

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers.

$2.95 U.S., $3.70 Canada.
32 B&W pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping May 11, 1993.

CHEVAL NOIR #42

"Suburban Nightmares," the Michael Cherkas/Larry Hancock/John van Bruggen cult classic, premieres with a brand-new tale — "Secrets"! Cossu & Jamsin serve up "Soup Line," the ever-popular Rick Geary keeps us informed of events on "The Crime Channel," Nicole Hollander's "Sylvia" examines the history of big hair, and Masashi Tanaka's enigmatic "Demon" continues.

DHP
DARK HORSE PRESENTS

The Chairman

Written by: **Charles Moore**

Illustrated by: **Andrew Robinson**

"The Madwoman of the Sacred Heart"

Written by: **Alexandro Jodorowsky**
(*El Topo*)

Illustrated by: **Moebius**

Eudaemon

Written, pencilled, and inked by: **Nelson**
(*RoboCop: Prime Suspect*)

Advisory: Suggested for adult readers. Contains sexual situations, nudity, and possibly controversial religious themes.

$2.25 U.S., $2.80 Canada.
32 B&W pages, color cover.

Monthly. Shipping May 25, 1993.

DARK HORSE PRESENTS #74

Fighting off an assassination attempt by his assistant, meeting with a bloodthirsty clergyman, and buying an entire planet are all in a day's work for *The Chairman*. Also, more of "The Madwoman of the Sacred Heart," and the all-action conclusion to the three-part prequel to artist Nelson's *Eudaemon* miniseries that begins next month!

STAR WARS

TALES OF THE JEDI

ULIC QEL-DROMA AND THE BEAST-WARS OF ONDERON

Part Three of Six

ARCA JETH OF ARKANIA, A GREAT JEDI MASTER AND SWORDSMAN, TELLS HIS THREE APPRENTICES THE HISTORY OF ONDERON, A STRANGE WORLD THAT HAS RECENTLY JOINED THE REPUBLIC.

PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT I'M SAYING, CAY. THIS IS IMPORTANT.

C'MON, CAY. IT'S DISRESPECTFUL TO FIX YOUR LIGHTSABER WHEN A MASTER IS TALKING TO YOU.

I'M *NOT* FIXING IT... I'M *TUNING* THE BLADE!

"IN THOSE ANCIENT DAYS ONDERON WAS A YOUNG WORLD, POPULATED BY PRIMITIVE TRIBES.

"THE PEACEFUL ONDERONIANS WERE UTTERLY UNPREPARED FOR THE MIGRATION OF THE BEASTS OF DXUN!

"TO THE BEASTS OF DXUN, THE ONDERONIANS WERE THE PERFECT FOOD--*EASILY CAPTURED.*

By Tom Veitch, Chris Gossett, and Mike Barreiro

"SO THE DXUN MONSTERS WERE ABLE TO GAIN A FOOTHOLD ON ONDERON, AND RAPIDLY MULTIPLY.

"FOR THE SAKE OF SURVIVAL, THE GENTLE ONDERONIAN TRIBES WERE FORCED TO DEVELOP WEAPONS OF DEATH.

"IN A FEW BRIEF YEARS, THE ONDERONIANS LEARNED THE PLEASURES OF HUNTING... SKILLFULLY KILLING THE GREAT MONSTROSITIES FOR MEAT AND FOR SPORT!

"SOME SAY THAT WAR IS THE BEGINNING OF CIVILIZATION. ON ONDERON, THIS WAS CERTAINLY THE CASE--

--BUT IT WAS A CIVILIZATION THAT TOOK A VERY PECULIAR FORM!

NEXT: THE GREAT WALLED CITY

THE VENUS WARS II #12

Holed up at a remote biologial research station, Matthew and his friends have bluffed Rado into meeting with them by threatening to release toxins into the atmosphere. Soldiers arrive with the media in tow, and as the nation breathlessly watches, Rado challenges Matthew to face him, one on one!

$2.95 U.S., $3.70 Canada. 40 B&W pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping May 11, 1993.

Written and illustrated by: **Yoshikazu Yasuhiko**
Translation by: **Alan Gleason** and **Toren Smith**
Painted cover by: **Dave Johnson** and **Brian Stelfreeze**

VERSION™ 1.6

VERSION #1.6

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada. 32 B&W pages, color cover.

Monthly. Shipping May 18, 1993.

Aboard the *Death's Head* sailing near Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Eiko Higure receives a strange signal on her laptop computer. It's EGOS, the sentient biochip/creature she's looking for, connected to the mysterious death of her father. As Eiko begins to communicate with the strange creature, the temperature begins to drop as EGOS manipulates the weather for its own, unknowable purposes...

Written and illustrated by: **Hisashi Sakaguchi**
Translation by: **Alan Gleason** and **Toren Smith**
Computer cover by: **Jack Harris**

THE DIRTY PAIR: SIM HELL #1 (OF 4)

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada.
32 B&W pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping May 4, 1993.

Haruka Takachiko's sexy super-agents are the reigning champions of Japanimation, and the American-produced comics adventures of the "Lovely Angels" have been a must-buy for legions of manga and science-fantasy fans. Now, the Dirty Pair return with their most spectacular adventure, courtesy of writer/artist Adam Warren, Studio Proteus, and Dark Horse Comics. In "Sim Hell," Kei and Yuri are given their annual "evaluative review," conducted via direct brain interface with an artificial intelligence supercomputer. When Kei becomes trapped in a combat simulation feedback loop, Yuri must be "jacked" into the sim to try to rescue Kei from her cyberspace nightmare. This virtual reality vortex showcases the dazzling talents of Adam Warren, who produces a visually stunning tale of awe-inspiring imagination, breakneck action, and painstaking detail. Quite simply, *The Dirty Pair* is one of the most entertaining books on the planet. Jack yourself in!

Written, pencilled, and inked by: **Adam Warren**
Painted cover by: **Adam Warren**

masamune shirow's

ORION™

ORION #5

$2.95 U.S., $3.70 Canada.
40 B&W pages, painted cover.

Bimonthly. Shipping May 25, 1993.

The dharmaquation has been triggered, creating a huge nine-headed dragon that threatens to destroy the planet! Seska, now under the influence of the malevolent tenth element, attempts to take control of the empire herself! It's up to the god Susano and Seska's father Fuzen to make her see reason, but what's to be done when she refuses to recognize her father, and swats Susano into the moon? Could this be the end for all of earth (and several planes of existence)?!

Written and illustrated by: **Masamune Shirow**
Translation by: **Fred Schodt** and **Toren Smith**
Painted cover by: **Masamune Shirow**

CARAVAN KIDD

CARAVAN KIDD PART 2 #1

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada.
32 B&W pages, color cover.

Monthly. Shipping May 18, 1993.

Having escaped the Empress Shion, Mian and Wataru take some time out from their travels to enjoy some music at a local tavern. The minions of the Hegelbard Empire have other plans, though, as Mian is forced to defend a local singer from their harassment. The threat of troops and tanks is small, compared to the spectacle of Mian's... uh... exceptional singing voice!

Caravan Kidd Part 2 continues with all the action, fun, and laughter of *Caravan Kidd* as our heroes venture into new territory in this collector's item first issue!

Written and illustrated by: **Johji Manabe**
Translation by: **Dana Lewis** and **Toren Smith**
Color cover by: **Johji Manabe**

THE MASK

Advisory:
Suggested for mature readers.

$14.95 U.S.,
$18.70 Canada
ISBN: 1-878574-50-7
152 color pages,
squarebound,
painted cover.

Shipping May 01, 1993.

THE MASK (TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION)

Gold-plated punk Stanley Ipkiss the gentleman Kathouse a mysterious green mask — a mask with an attitude that comes through even in the face. But when he starts [illegible] the mayhem really kicks the fun, because it brings out the worst in anyone who wears it. The Mask comes his way through walls of slugs and assorted creeps using weapons that range from pies to double-headed battle axes!

This book collects the original *Mask* issues and includes new materials from creator Mike Richardson, writer John Arcudi, and artist Doug Mahnke.

Written by: **John Arcudi**
Illustrated by: **Doug Mahnke**
Painted cover by: **Doug Mahnke**

PREDATOR™
COLD WAR

Advisory:
Suggested for mature readers.

$13.95 U.S.,
$17.45 Canada.
ISBN: 1-878574-79-5
112 color pages, squarebound, painted cover.

Shipping May 25, 1993.

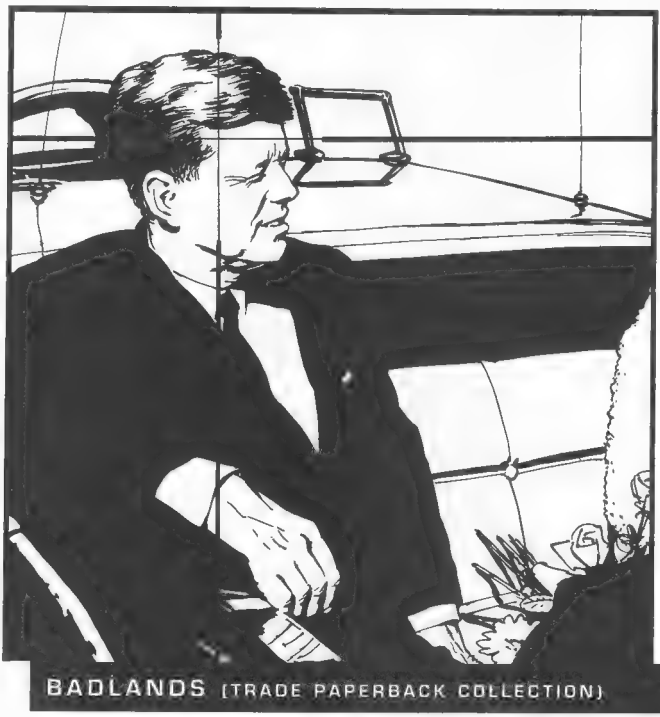
PREDATOR: COLD WAR (TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION)

Beautiful, bold Lt. Ligachev is two months into her first command position at a *pumping station in the Siberian oil fields when her men are slaughtered by an* invisible foe. She escapes, barely. New York City detective Schaefer has run into Predators before on the mean streets of the United States, and survived. Now Ligachev and Schaefer are sent to winter-ravaged Siberia by their bickering governments to eliminate the Predators — if they can just keep the Americans and Russians from killing each other first.

Collected for the first time, this book features a new cover from Ray Lago.

Written by: **Mark Verheiden**
Pencilled by: **Ron Randall**
Inked by: **Steve Mitchell**
Painted cover by: **Ray Lago**

BADLANDS™



BADLANDS (TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION)

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers. Contains adult themes and language.

$13.95 U.S., $17.45 Canada.
ISBN: 1-878574-53-1
140 B&W pages,
6" X 9 1/4",
painted cover.

Shipping May 25, 1993.

Conrad "Connie" Bremen is an ex-con carrying the stench of a sordid, secret past. Connie just wants to get on with his life, but he's attracting the attention of all the wrong people: the Mob, the CIA, the FBI — and the nymphomaniac daughter of a Texas millionaire. Everyone has plans for Connie, whether he likes it or not. And some of those plans include the murder of a president.

This edition collects the original series, with an intro by Frank Miller and additional material by Steven Grant.

Written by: **Steven Grant**
Illustrated by: **Vince Giarrano**
Painted cover by: **Vince Giarrano**

THE AMERICAN™

ADVANCE SOLICITATION!

THE AMERICAN VOLUME 2 (TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION)

$12.95 U.S.,
$16.20 Canada.
ISBN: 1-878574-76-0
144 B&W pages,
squarebound,
color cover.

Shipping June 29, 1993.

For over thirty years, The American was the champion of democracy, the super-powered embodiment of our nation's fighting spirit. But the proud career of The American hid a top-secret government conspiracy — that was ultimately uncovered by The American himself.

Now, accompanied by a cynical reporter struggling with his alcoholism and a middle-aged kid sidekick, The American tries to clear his name and find a new purpose in life. Branded as a traitor, trained only for combat, how can a hero live after he's killed his own legend?

This book collects *The American* issues 5-8 and *The American Special*, and features red-hot cover art by Frank Miller. An added bonus: special remembrances of The American's Watchfob Comics years from Mark Verheiden, Nancy Collins, Paul Chadwick, and others!

Written by: **Mark Verheiden**
Pencilled by: **Grant Miehm** and **Dougie Braithwaite**
Inked by: **Chris Warner**, **Grant Miehm**, **Bruce Patterson**, and **Robert Campanella**
Color cover by: **Frank Miller**

THE HORSE'S MOUTH

10956 SE MAIN STREET, MILWAUKIE, OREGON 97222

Dear Dark Horse Staff,

Hello, my name is Kim Vo and I'm a boy. I hope you didn't stop reading because I'm a young adult. I'm 13 years old. I've been collecting Marvel and Image comics so far. But I've heard Dark Horse comics are really great! And also I heard you have great artists and writers like Frank Miller, John Byrne, Moebius, and many others. But I never could get my hands on my favorite comics. Reasons:

1) We have lots of gangs and gang fights so it's hard to get to my local bookstore.

2) The prices are high, but I bet it's worth the price and hassle after I read it.

3) Most of my favorites are for "mature" readers, like the one I want in my hands, Matt Wagner's *Grendel: War Child*, or *John Byrne's Next Men*, or *Dark Horse Presents*, and others. I'm not saying you should cut it, I think it's great expressing your work.

But it's pretty hard for me and other young adults or "kids" like me. Please solve my problem, and thanks for reading my letter. Please write back, and best wishes.

Your new fan,
Kim Vo
Long Beach, CA

Of course I won't stop reading because you're a young adult. Some of my favorite people are young adults (including my two teenage daughters). It's always great to welcome a new fan into the fold. You heard right, Kim. We're very fortunate to have so many gifted writers and artists — the Dark Horse stable is filled with talent!

I'm sorry to hear you're having problems getting hold of your favorite comics. Prices on some books may seem high, but so is the quality. I think you'll agree that you're getting real value for your dollars (see Rick Ristow's comments in the next letter!).

There are ways to resolve your "mature readers" problem. Of course you know that there are lots of great Dark Horse comic books without a "mature readers" advisory. Every comics retailer handles the sale of restricted material in his or her own way. If you have your heart set on a book or books labeled "Suggested for mature readers," you might consider getting your parents' approval and having them give your comics retailer authorization to sell you those titles. That's something you'd need to work out with them.

I strongly recommend that you read our upcoming superhero-launch, Comics' Greatest World, *coming in June. The 16-issue miniseries introduces a whole new superhero universe from Dark Horse Comics, showcasing the talents of some of the top creators in the industry. At just $1.00 per issue, you can easily afford them, and the books are suitable for all ages.*

As for the gangs, it saddens me to hear that their presence in your neighborhood keeps you from easy access to your comics shop. It also makes me angry — you should be able to go anywhere you want to go without fear of being hassled or harmed. If things get too hairy, you might look into using a mail-order firm for your comics purchases. There are several good companies out there. Whatever you do, steer clear of gangs, and stay safe!

Dark Horse...

I have been born again, into comics that is. Just around the end of last year, I began to collect comic books again. Given that I have staunch socialistic political beliefs, I hate with a passion big business, which leads me to my point in writing this letter.

I have always bought from the smaller companies, namely Dark Horse and Image. Do you know why? I'll briefly tell you why. Smaller companies, namely the two I mentioned, put quality above all. I have no problem shelling out two bucks fifty for *Nexus*, the *Star Wars* comics, or *Grendel* because I know that it is worth it. I know that I am getting value for money.

In one of the last *Insider* handouts, I read a letter about foil-embossed covers, or the flashy slick covers. With Marvel it is like gold-plating something. On the outside they have this pretty thing, which tempts you to pick it up, when on the inside you have something dull and ordinary. Now when the smaller companies do it, namely Dark Horse and Image, it is like plating gold with platinum. Key example, the nice glossy cover to *Nexus: The Origin*.

Keep up the excellent work, and you will have my support. It is nice to see a company that worries about comics more than it does about the monetary factor, otherwise everything would be on time for public consumption, without the task of refining the product into the gem it would become.

Sincerely,
Rick Ristow
Morgantown, WV

Thanks for the good words, Rick. "Gems" do take time to produce, and we appreciate your patience and support. Speaking of patience, the next letter is from a concerned Dark Horse reader who's running out of his...

Greetings...

Over lunch yesterday, I talked with the proprietor of a comics shop near where I work. I stop by his shop every couple days, just to see what's new,

(Continued on page 32)

SNEAK PREVIEW

Arcadia — Week 1: X opens the door to a whole summer of all-new superhero battle action like you've never seen it before! This first issue in a weekly miniseries of sixteen is written by **Jerry Prosser**, pencilled by **Chris Warner**, and inked by **Tim Bradstreet**, with a color cover by **Frank Miller**. What a way to start a series!

Arcadia — Week 1: X ships June 15, 1993.

YAAAA
JORGENSEN, WARD...
GET HIM! NOW!
CHARNG!

BRRT
TAT
TAT

NEW TITLES FROM DARK HORSE INTERNATIONAL

Dark Horse International continues to bring you the best of Dark Horse U.S.'s licensed comics, together with all-new features and artwork exclusive to the British edition. The following monthly titles are available in May.

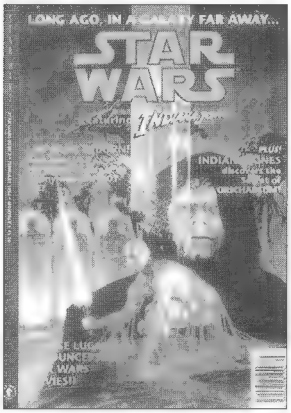
STAR WARS #5 (U.K. EDITION)

The penultimate chapter of the *Star Wars: Dark Empire* saga pits Luke Skywalker against the menace of the "Emperor Reborn." The action never lets up in a story already acknowledged as a classic, by writer **Tom Veitch** and artist **Cam Kennedy**. Meanwhile, Indiana Jones at last comes across the fabled land of Atlantis, but the Nazis are hot on his trail.

Original features include an interview with George Lucas on the next three *Star Wars* films (coming to a theater near you around about 1997!), plus a roundup of other Lucasfilm news in our regular "Imperial Probe" column. Topping it all off is another stunning cover painting by **Dave Dorman**.

$2.95 U.S., $3.70 Canada, £1.50 U.K.
48 color pages, magazine format, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping May 18, 1993.



ALIENS VOLUME 2 #8 (U.K. EDITION)

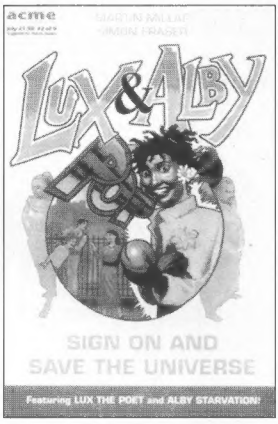
Talented newcomer **Kilian Plunkett** provides the cover for this issue, depicting the climax of *Aliens: Newt's Tale* from an unusual perspective. This cover provides a foretaste of the stunning work he's doing on the forthcoming *Aliens: Labyrinth* series.

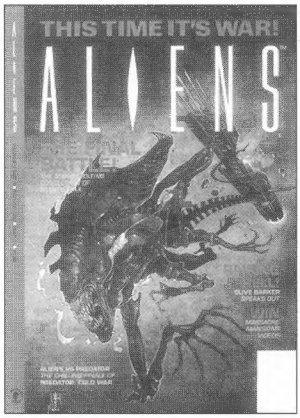
New features include a fact-file on actor Lance (Bishop) Henricksen, an interview on horror supremo Clive Barker on his brief flirtation with Alien^3, plus a "Technical Readout" on the Jorden Tractor and a roundup of the latest Alien events in "Motion Tracker."

Comic strips include the final episodes of *Aliens: Newt's Tale* and *Predator: Cold War*, while *Aliens: Hive* nears its conclusion too. And in our epic miniseries *Aliens vs. Predator 2*, those two nasty species are still slugging it out!

$2.95 U.S., $3.70 Canada, £1.50 U.K.
48 color pages, magazine format, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping May 4, 1993.





LUX & ALBY #2 (OF 9)

Lux The Poet tries to win the love of the beautiful Pearl. Alby Starvation tries to protect his comics collection from his thieving neighbors. Iskar tries to invade the realm of Nirvana. Menta tries to fathom the reason behind her quest to become the greatest kisser in the universe, and Nicky and Pearl face the ultimate horror — three weeks worth of dirty dishes!

Lux and Alby is the acclaimed British cutting-edge comic, which leads from the streets of London to the gates of Nirvana, and will appeal to fans of *Love and Rockets*, *Deadline*, and the Vertigo imprint. Published by Acme Comics and distributed through Dark Horse.

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers. This issue contains harsh language and ancient I-Ching symbols!

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada, £1.50 U.K.
32 B&W pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping May 18, 1993.

(Continued from page 26)

what's interesting, and what, if anything, I'm interested in buying. In recent weeks, he's learned to greet me with the statement that, no, *Another Chance to Get It Right* hasn't come in yet (despite the postcard I was sent assuring me that it would finally ship four weeks ago).

This time we talked about Valiant's perfect shipping record — a record which has been seriously marred by its decision to collaborate on *Predator vs. Magnus Robot Fighter*. One thing he mentioned was that, by the time the second part comes out, people will have forgotten that the project even existed. By my reading of the *Insider*, it's about three months late.

To be honest, though, *Predator vs. Magnus Robot Fighter* isn't something I care about a whole lot. However, it's a very visible example of a serious problem. For items more to my tastes, I can look through that issue of the *Insider* (and the ones following) and list quite a few comics that I expected to show up months ago, and I'm still waiting for. *Nexus the Liberator* finally showed up, as did *James Bond 007: Serpent's Tooth*. Andrew Vachss' book is still out there in limbo, as are the last few issues of *Dark Horse Presents* and *Classic Star Wars*.

I was impressed in *Nexus: Alien Justice* that Anina Bennett would spend the first part of the letter column apologizing for the book's lateness and giving us *reasons* for the problem. However, *Nexus* is just one book out of many, and its reasons won't hold for quite a few of the others that are still missing in transit.

What are the problems? And are you working on any solutions?

You folks are publishing some fantastic stuff, but my joy of collecting seems to be getting poisoned by all the late comics. Believe it or not, any explanations would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Matt Bracher
Kent, WA

Believe it or not, we share your concerns, and your questions deserve answers. There are several reasons why some of our books have been shipping late. Here are a few:

Dark Horse has experienced phenomenal growth, going from 20 to just under 100 employees in the last 18 months. That growth in staff has been accompanied by expanded, renovated, and new facilities, as well as new equipment. Unlike any other publisher in the comics arena, Dark Horse does its own coloring, separations, and stripping in-house, giving us quality control unprecedented in the industry. Dark Horse is a leader in state-of-the-art, cutting-edge technologies, many of which we are developing as we go. There is a learning curve involved in implementing this new technology, but we're quickly getting up to speed.

As you might expect, the number of books Dark Horse is producing on a monthly basis has increased substantially. In May of 1991 we solicited for 6 books — in May of 1993 we're soliciting for 28 books!

Also, Dark Horse is working with some of the hottest (and busiest) creators in the business. Consequently, some of them get a bit overloaded and backed up on projects. (It's tough to be popular!)

Dark Horse Comics appreciates the support of our readers and retailers, and we've made it top priority to get all *books shipping on time. As proof of that commitment, we're putting our money where our mouth is with the new* Comics' Greatest World *series beginning in June (check out the Sneak Preview on pg. 27). This 16-issue superhero series launch will ship* weekly, *with a guarantee to retailers that if any of the 16 books is even one week late, they are 100% returnable. We're serious! Stick with us, Matt. You won't be sorry.*

Usually we feature "Photo Finish" on pg. 32 of the Insider, *but this month we had* so many *great books to tell you about that we ran out of room! Instead we'll finish "The Horse's Mouth" with this truly amazing reader photo...*

Dear Horse's Mouth,

I liked your "Bad Hair Day" pictures [*If you missed it, check out "Photo Finish" on pg. 32 of the February '93* Insider *#14. — K.*]. This is me on my Bad Hair Day. You too can achieve this marvelous look by rubbing your head on a trampoline (don't ask). For best results, if your trampoline is outside, make sure it's not raining.

Statically yours,
Laura R. Sherman
S. Plainfield, NJ

I love this job! Where else can you get paid to have this much fun? Thanks for the letter and photo, Laura. You made my day.

Keep reading!
Kris Young

We want to hear from you! Send your Dark Horse questions, comments, and observations to:

The Horse's Mouth
c/o Dark Horse Comics
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

INSIDE OUT

COMING IN JULY

GOLDEN CITY — WEEK 1: REBEL
COVER ART BY
JERRY ORDWAY

SHIPPING JUNE 1

The Dirty Pair: Sim Hell #2

SHIPPING JUNE 8

Accident Man #2
Cheval Noir #43
Grendel: War Child #10
John Byrne's Next Men #15
Star Wars #6 (U.K. Edition)
The Venus Wars II #13
Urban Legends #1

SHIPPING JUNE 15

Arcadia — Week 1: X
Caravan Kidd Part 2 #2
Dark Horse Presents #75
Version #1.7

SHIPPING JUNE 22

Aliens Volume 2 #9 (U.K. Edition)
Arcadia — Week 2: Pit Bulls
Lux & Alby #3
Redblade #3
Tank Girl II #1
Universal Monsters: Frankenstein

SHIPPING JUNE 29

Aliens: Rogue #3
Arcadia — Week 3: Ghost
The Safest Place
Dark Horse Insider #20

SHIPPING JULY 6

Aliens: Colonial Marines #6
Arcadia — Week 4: Monster
The Blue Lily #4
Classic Star Wars #10
Predator: Race War #3

SHIPPING JULY 27

Aliens II (trade paperback collection)
(3rd printing)
The Best of Dark Horse Presents Volume 3
(trade paperback collection)

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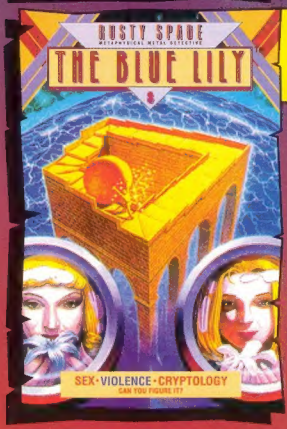
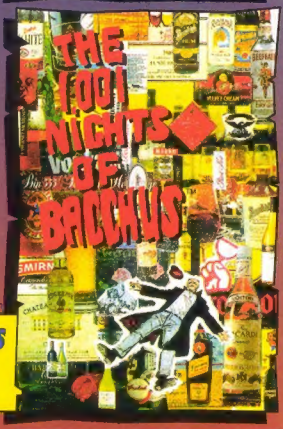
ALIENS: ROGUE #2!
PAGE 3

PROPELLERMAN #3!
PAGE 6



THE BLUE LILY #3!
PAGE 8

DARK HORSE COMICS



THE 1,001 NIGHTS OF BACCHUS!
PAGE 11

ALIENS: SACRIFICE!
PAGE 1

DIRTY PAIR: SIM HELL #1!
PAGE 19